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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

801-809 G St. N.W., Washington, D. C.

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

VOL. 3, NO. 4 — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 1913. — WHOLE NO. 108

STEEL TRUST METHODS.

Washington, April 26.—Organizer Lewis, of the American Federation of Labor, now assisting in the direction of the organizing movement being carried on in Pittsburg and surrounding territory, relates an interesting incident that recently occurred at McKees Rocks. Comment would be superfluous. He said: "At our McKees Rocks meeting recently held in the Helen Street Theater we were treated to a striking demonstration of the attitude of the Pressed Steel Car Company toward our efforts to organize its employes. At 7.30 o'clock the manager of the plant, whose name I understand is McKee, appeared in front of the theater with fifteen members of the company's police force from the car plant, who were formed members of the State Constabulary, and also ten detectives, together with fifteen or eighteen of the mill foremen, in all making a force of about forty men, who were fully armed. These men stationed themselves in line on the opposite side of the street, with the intention, I suppose, of intimidating the workers by this display of force. As they came, gathered on the street about 150 of whom entered the hall and remained throughout the meeting, the remainder thronged the street before the entrance to the theater. A captain of police with a squad of patrolmen, was stationed between the crowd and the armed force from the Pressed Steel Car Company's plant. No effort was made however, to disperse the crowd of armed men, and although the weather was cold, they remained until the meeting adjourned. Considering that in spite of this display of force the workmen from the plant to a goodly number had entered the hall, the manifest of the company, in their desperation, cut the electric wires leading into the theater, plunging the house into darkness. The men remained, however, until candles were procured, and the meeting was proceeded with. This incident served to harden forcibly to the workmen the methods employed by their employers, and was responsible for many additions to the forces which has been established among these men. Dissatisfaction is rife, and the pursuance of the tactics related is bearing in bringing the workmen employed by the company into the union."

INCREASES IN ERIE.

Erie, April 26.—The Metal Trades Department's campaign of organization in this city, which has been on for a number of weeks, is beginning to show little results. The members of the Metal Polishers' Union employed by the Erie Tool Works have secured an increase of 25 cents per day, which now brings their wages up to $21 per week. The molders in the Erie Tool Company's foundry also secured an increase in pay. The Erie Specialty Company has voluntarily advanced the wages of its metal polishers and buffers to $21 per week. The concern also increased the wages of its core makers up to the same figure. The metal polishers and molders mentioned are members of their respective unions.

SPECIAL CONVENTION CALLED.

New York, April 26.—The general executive board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union has called a special convention to convene May 1 for the purpose of discussing the advisability of adopting a "protocol label" jointly with the several manufacturers' associations. In the protocol now recognized by the organization and the waist and dress manufacturers it is provided that a joint label shall be adopted. This fact makes it necessary for the international to take definite action, which will be done at the special convention.

CONDUCTORS WANT MORE.

Winnipeg, April 26.—Negotiations between the Canadian Northern Railway officials and the conductors of that road, who are demanding an increase in wages, have been broken off, and the conductors will now place their case before the Board of Railway Railway employes, according to information given out. It is expected that the conductors will soon issue a strike ultimatum.

MACHINISTS GROWING.

Washington, April 26.—According to a recent report issued by the International Association of Machinists, there were organized thirty-seven new lodges during the months of January, February and March, with an increased membership approximating 4,500 members. It is asserted that if this percentage of increase continues, the year 1913 will be the best in the history of the organization.

WANT SHORTER HOURS.

Toledo, Ohio, April 26.—The machinists and handy men at the Warner Manufacturing Company's plant are on strike because the owners refused to reduce the hours of labor from ten to nine. There are about 175 involved. While strikers leaders are being brought in, the plant is being great difficulty experienced in getting men to take the places of the strikers.

GET SHORTER DAY.

Portland, Oreg., April 26.—After many years of continuous effort the Meat Cutters' Union has secured the closing of nearly all meat markets of this city at 6 o'clock p. m. All the leading markets, including the department stores are now closing promptly at the hour mentioned.

BRICKLAYERS GET INCREASE.

Springfield, Mass., April 26.—The Bricklayers' Union has succeeded in securing an increased wage. The increase is 5 cents an hour, making the present scale 65 cents. No difficulty was experienced in securing the increase.

SULZER FOR MORE MONEY.

Albany, April 26.—"It seems to me that your department should get better results for the general welfare, and be doing simple justice to its laborers, if 25 cents an hour were paid for work on the canals," says Gov. Sulzer in a letter to Duncan W. Peck, State superintendent of public works, in which he has just received $1.76 for an eight-hour day. "Contractors for canal work," continues the letter, "pay that much to their employes, and laborers on the State highways are also paid 25 cents an hour. Your department ought to pay as much to laborers as other State departments, and certainly as much as a private corporation pays its men for similar work. You are aware of the increased cost of living and the high prices that must be paid for the necessities of life. This affects the laboring men fully as much as it does clerks, or other better paid employes, and the State which employs them should see to it that they are paid at least a living wage."

CARPENTERS REPORT PROGRESS

Indianapolis, Ind., April 26.—Secretary Frank Duffy, of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, has just given out the following report of successful trade movements, covering the month of March: Thompsonville, Conn., has secured a ten-hour increase and Saturday half holiday; Wellsburg, W. Va., increase from $2.25 to $2.75 per day; Danville, Ill., 5 cents per hour increase; Chattanooga, Tenn., 5 cents per hour increase; La Fayette, Ind., 5 cents per hour; 10 cents per hour; Galesburg, Ill., increase from 50 to 55 cents per hour; Niagara Falls, N. Y., 5 cents per hour increase for outside carpenters. Scranton, Pa., 5 cents per hour increase; Wilkesbarre, Pa., 5 cents per hour increase; Cincinnati, and Ohio, 50 cents per day increase; Ottawa, Ill., 2 cents per hour increase; Champaign, Ill., 2 cents per hour increase. These increases were all secured without strike and lockout. In Ohio where a strike occurred, lasting only a few days. Strikes are now on in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Newport, R. I., Birmingham, Ala. (lockout); Muscatine, Iowa, and Pittston, Pa., the organization in these places being in readily shape, and are almost certain of a speedy victory.

RESULT OF AKRON STRIKE.

Akron, Ohio, April 26.—The organizing movement in this city, which started with the rubber workers and which precipitated the strike in the rubber factories, has had a most beneficial effect upon other trades, and good results have been obtained. The molders have secured an increase in wages from $2.10 to $2.40, with an increase in membership of 200 men. The carpenters also have increased their membership by over fifty, and the street carmen have added 100 members. The machinists have more than doubled their membership, and the patternmakers have had a substantial increase, with the plumbers also securing an increased membership. A new union of teamsters has been organized, and the bakers have also secured an advance in wages, with better working conditions. In fact, there is a decided interest manifested in the organization work in this city than ever before in the history of the movement.

BREWERY WORKERS' INCREASE

Springfield, Mass., April 26.—The management of the Springfield Breweries Company and the unions connected with the Brewery Workers International have reached an agreement. A contract for three years has been signed and the wage scale is as follows: $21 to $25 varying with the grades of work and the length of service of the employes, according to the agreement. The minimum wage for brewers is to be $17 per week, a $1 increase, and a maximum of $22, also a $1 increase. The bottlers, who have been receiving a minimum wage of $13 and a maximum of $16 per week, are to receive a minimum of $14 and a maximum of $18. The drivers, whose scale ranged from $15 to $17, will receive from $17 to $20. This agreement covers both Springfield and Holyoke.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY DECISION

Albany, N. Y., April 26.—The appellate division of the New York Supreme Court for the First Department held, in the case of Fahy vs. Society of the New York Hospital, that a notice of accident was sufficient under the employers' liability act if it stated the facts, designated the time and place of the accident and pointed out a defective handrail, swinging machine at which the plaintiff was working, and in which his arm was caught, as the cause of the injury, and specified the negligence of the employer in failing to furnish him with reasonably safe appliances with which to work, with reasonably safe rules to govern the work, and reasonably to inspect and safeguard the same.

TEAMSTERS GROWING.

Philadelphia, April 26.—The teamsters in this city are rapidly doing things when it comes to organization work. At the last meeting over 500 new members were taken in. The union team drivers now number more than 4,000 members in good standing. The large number of strikes has had the result of a persistent campaign having been carried on in this city for a number of months by the teamsters, and wages and betterments of conditions have been secured, and the future is, indeed, bright for the team drivers.

FOR RAILROAD EMPLOYES.

Washington, April 26.—Believing that existing laws, intended to protect railroad employes and the public, in the matter of hours of labor have been violated by the transportation companies and that this may lead to the imposition of a demand for strict enforcement, Senator Kenyon has introduced a bill amending the act of March 4, 1907, so as to make it obligatory that all railway employes shall have twenty-four hours consecutive rest off duty in every period of 168 hours.

METAL TRADES DEPARTMENT.

Washington, April 26.—President O'Connell, of the Metal Trades department, in speaking of the Pittsburg (Pa.) campaign, stated that the new organizations formed consist of the boilermakers, blacksmiths, building laborers, electricians, engineers, foundry employes, latchers, sheet metal workers, teamsters, and rubber workers. The aggregate membership of these new organizations reach 7,000. In addition to this there has been an increase in membership in the established organizations exceeding 2,000 members.

COAST IMMIGRATION MEET

San Francisco, Cal., April 26.—There was held a conference in this city on April 14 and 15 for the purpose of discussing the question of immigration. This question is concerning the people of the coast, and much apprehension is felt that when the Panama Canal is opened a tremendous flood of immigrants will be poured into the coast and contiguous States. The problem is not a new one to the Pacific Coast, but with the completion of the great waterway the Western coast will be of much easier access to steamship companies engaged in the immigrant-carrying business. The conference did not evolve any definite plans, save that resolutions were adopted urging legislation by the States providing for immigration commissions, whereby means could be provided for the location of immigrants in the rural sections, and suggesting the adoption of educational methods designed to educate the newcomers for the duties of citizenship. The consensus of opinion favored a policy of protecting the immigrants against exploitation by employers, padrones, landlords, or other interests, looking to the economic side of the subject to be dealt with at some future time. Walter Macarthur, editor of the Coast Seamen's Journal, was one of the prominent attendants at this conference.

RECENT RAILROAD WRECKS.

Washington, D. C., April 26.—The following are a few of the disastrous railroad wrecks that have been selected at random from press reports during the recent past; seven persons were killed and fifteen injured as result of the derailment of an excursion train on the Monongahela-Chambley branch of the Central Vermont Railway, the engineer of a Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific passenger train was killed and the passengers badly shaken up when the train crashed into a switch engine at Elston, Ill.; 5 persons, Chairman, the fireman and mail clerk seriously injured in a wreck which occurred on the Union Pacific Railway near Cheyenne Wells, Colo., recently; five railroad men were seriously injured in a wreck at Bemis Junction, Pa., when a switch engine crashed into two cabin cars in which the men were resting; engine, tender and the end of the track and down an embankment; a Norfolk-bound train on the Norfolk and Western, south of Basic City, Va., collided, wrecking the four engine and injuring six members of the train crews; twenty-five laborers were injured, two probably fatally, when four cars of a gravel train broke through a temporary trestle on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, near Vincennes, Ind., recently.

EIGHT-HOUR LAW RULING.

Washington, April 26.—Judge Advocate Gen. Crowder has given an opinion in regard to the eight-hour law. The eight-hour law, based upon the opinion recently rendered by the Attorney General. The Attorney General declared that the eight-hour restrictions of the act of June 5, 1912, apply only to work performed by the contractor, and that no penalty can be imposed if a laborer or mechanic employed by contractors or subcontractors should be required to work more than eight hours a day on some other work than that contemplated by the contract. The decision of Judge Crowder is the opinion of the Attorney General can be extended so as to cover the case of a laborer or mechanic working more than eight hours a day upon two separate contracts, each containing the eight hour restrictions of the law, no matter whether they cover like or different materials or whether under the same department of the government or by two.

ROPE STRIKE SETTLED.

Auburn, April 26.—The Columbia Rope Company strike is settled, and it has the distinction of those who have been on strike since March 20 have returned to work. The terms of the settlement provide that the United Textile Workers' Union is to be recognized; reinstatement of discharged employes is to follow; increases in wages are to take place, and arrangements are provided whereby minor differences are to be adjusted by committees from the union and the management. The strike against the International Harvester Company is being investigated by the State board of mediation and arbitration, and while the company is proceeding to dismantle its plant under the threat to move it to a foreign country, not a wheel or machinery has as yet been shipped from Auburn.

DISTRICT CHILD LABOR BILL.

Washington, April 26.—A drastic bill for the regulation of child labor in the District of Columbia has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Williams of Mississippi. It provides for legislation to safeguard children from employment in factories and other places where their life may be danger from machinery or from unhealthy conditions. The health officer of the District in the compulsory service is given power to pass upon other employment for children not already forbidden by the proposed law. If he finds the employment unhealthy or dangerous the children are to be prohibited from accepting it.

CHICAGO PAINTERS.

Chicago, April 26.—The Brotherhood of Painters have, to all intents and purposes, won the fight for the eight hour day. The Chicago Daily Press, in a recent issue, devotes an entire page in giving the names and addresses of the firms of the master painters who have signed a recent agreement, carrying an advance of 5 cents per hour, to take effect on the month or 5 cents per hour advance next year. In all, 1,000 firms have signed the agreement terms the agreement and only a comparatively small number of master painters are holding out against the advance demanded.

ENGINEERS GET DEMANDS.

Norfolk, Va., April 26.—The Seaboard Air Line has accepted the demands of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers for better working conditions. An adjustment was reached after a conference which had been in conference with the officials of the road for some time, and it has just been announced that the railroad acceded to the terms of the engineers' demands, the exact nature of which have not been disclosed.

TO CARRY OUT AMENDMENT.

Washington, D. C., April 26.—Representative Bryan of Washington has introduced a bill providing a method for choosing United States Senators by popular election. The proposed law would apply in the various States until the legislatures provide by law the manner in which Senators shall be elected.

PASSES MOTHERS' PENSION.

Harrisburg, Pa., April 26.—The Legislature has passed the mothers' pension bill, and it is now before the Governor for his approval or disapproval.

GAIN $5,000,000 INCREASE

Pittston, Pa., April 26.—The first year of the present agreement between the anthracite miners and the operators expired April 1, and is to continue three years longer. To date the agreement has affected the 180,000 mine workers of the anthracite field an advance in wages conservatively estimated to be more than $5,000,000. Together with securing to the mine workers this large increase in wages, the agreement also resulted in giving the miners' union the greatest membership that it has ever had in the anthracite belt. The present membership of District. No. 1 the most prominent of the three anthracite districts, and which has its headquarters in Scranton, Pa., is now above the 60,000 mark. Upon the inauguration of this agreement in 1912 there were not more than 15,000 mine workers in the union in District No. 1. District No. 7 has now 20,000 members and District No. 9 has 30,000 members, making an aggregate membership in the three districts of 125,000 mine workers, which is a large increase in membership, and is 40,000 more than the organization has ever had upon its membership rolls in these districts.

IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE.

Portland, Oreg., April 26.—The Central Labor Council, of this city, as the result of the recommendation of a committee, have issued a call for a conference of delegates from Central Bodies in Washington, California, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, and the Canadian province of British Columbia. The object of the conference is to inaugurate some plan to combat the efforts of hostile interests and the steamship companies from flooding the Western territory with immigrants upon the opening of the Panama Canal. The date set for the meeting is June 5. At the instance of the Central Labor Council a letter has also been issued to the trade unionists' unions of Europe seeking information, as well as giving a brief resume of the labor conditions on the Pacific slope, and urging co-operation to the end that foreign workmen be not made the prey of designing employers and steamship companies.

"PHILLY" BUILDING TRADES.

Philadelphia, April 26.—Exceptionally good work has been accomplished recently by the officers and representatives of the Building Trades Council. There is more activity among the building trades this season than for many years past, and results are being achieved in consequence. Numerous buildings which are under construction have been straightened out, so far as union labor is concerned, and notices are being served in every direction that building trades is noticeable. Organizing committees of the Building Trades Council have turned over the new organization of over 100 dock builders to the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. Lathers, Plasterers are soon to affiliate with the Building Trades Council, as will also the Marble Workers and the Wood Polishers. It is expected that this will be a banner year from every point of view for the Philadelphia building trades.

NEW LABOR LYCEUM.

Newark, N. J., April 26.—Exercises were recently held at the opening of the new Labor Lyceum, which is to be the home of the Essex Trades Council and the unions of this city. The building is a two-story structure constructed of brick, with limestone trimmings, the interior being divided into halls and other convenient rooms. The appointments are modern and the furnishings in keeping with the appearance of the building. To establish the nucleus of a fund for building purposes, individuals, labor unions, and progressive societies are contributing. The membership of the organizations in this city are gratified in that they have now a home of their own.

PAINTERS GET AGREEMENT.

Holyoke, Mass., April 26.—The Painters' Union in this city has been successful in securing an increased wage scale. The new agreement is for two years and carries a wage of 45½ cents per hour and a forty-four hour week. This is an 8½ cent wage rate for the next two years $30.66 per week. It is provided also that the painter contractor can secure a union contractor's card unless the employes are insured under the workmen's compensation act. This makes for safety of protecting the employes and making it obligatory upon the employer to provide protection under the laws of the State.

BROTHERHOOD OF CARMEN.

Kansas City, Mo., April 26.—A new lodge has just been organized at St. Paul, Minn., and another one at Wahasha, Minn. Another new organization has been organized by a volunteer organizer of the A. F. of L. at Preston, Ontario, Canada, while still another one has been organized at Ashburn, Ga. The difficulty between the carmen's union and the management of the M. K. & T. Railroad at Bainbridge, Ga., has been satisfactorily adjusted.

STRIKES AT NORRISTOWN.

Norristown, Pa., April 26.—The strikes in this city and vicinity involve iron and steel companies, one woolen mill at Bridgeport and the Alan Wood Steel Company at Conshohocken. The strikers are nearly all foreigners, but American workmen are with the strikers. At the woolen mill, where 1,200 people are on strike, the company has offered a 15 per cent increase, which has been refused by the strikers are holding out for a 20 per cent increase.

RAILWAY CLERKS.

Kansas City, Mo., April 26.—The Brotherhood of Railway Clerks has secured the revision of its agreements with the Missouri, Kansas & Texas, Gulf and Wichita Valley railroads, through which material advances in wages have been secured. During the last few months of the present year the brotherhood has been successful in increasing the salaries of its members employed by the Missouri Pacific railroad, secured the new conditions. The agreement which has been signed by the contracting parties also provides for a 9 hour and a wage of $80, with a forty-four-hour week.

MINERS GET CONCESSIONS.

Crosby, Minn., April 26.—The strike of the iron ore miners on the Cuyuna range is ended. As a result meeting has been held between representatives of the strikers and the mine owners the companies made a number of concessions and the miners agreed to return to work.

DUAL UNION LOSES SUIT

Washington, D. C., April 26.—A recent issue of the Philadelphia Trades Union News contains this item: Judge Carr, in Common Pleas Court, No. 4, yesterday dismissed the injunction suit brought by the faction of local carmen headed by C. O. Pratt against the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America. In the fall of 1911, Division No. 477 split on the question of the eligibility of Pratt to hold office. The seceders organized a rival Washington congregate one day each month for the purpose of purchasing international money orders. The amount sent abroad each month is very close to $2,000. When it is considered that Washington is not an industrial city, that no factories are in operation, and that the main source of employment of these Italians is on railroad track repair work, this statement is illuminating. From this instance it would appear reasonable to assume that a tremendous and almost unbelievable amount of money is sent out of this country by foreign workmen.

FOREIGN EMBASSY PROTESTS.

New York City, April 26.—Gov. Sulzer has been communicated with by the State Department of the United States in reference to the shooting of some Italian laborers in Auburn, N. Y., where a strike is now on, and which has been in progress for some time. The Italian royal agent who investigated the trouble at Auburn reported that the shooting by the police was not justified, and that the Mayor of Auburn offered no explanation in connection with the action of the police. Gov. Sulzer has directed the State Labor Commissioner to make an investigation, and has further set the entire State machinery in motion for the purpose of getting at the actual facts in the case.

RETAIL CLERK SUCCESSES.

Washington, April 26.—In a letter from H. J. Conway, secretary-treasurer of the Retail Clerks International Protective Association, it is stated that the international organization has been successful in with the interests of the members of the local union in East Liverpool, Ohio, where 250 clerks came out. A minimum wage of $8 per week was secured, while one or two of the minor points went to arbitration, but all will be settled to their former positions. In Belleville, Ill., the minimum wage has been established and a reduction in the hours of work per week secured. The strike of the retail clerks in Lafayette, Ind., still continues and is being conducted in a vigorous manner. Secretary Conway states that the organization is the only one in the United States appear to be in a fighting mood, and are making greater progress than ever before in the history of the organization.

AGREE WITH GOVERNOR.

Charleston, W. Va., April 26.—The coal operators of Kanawha County have accepted the proposal suggested for the settlement of the strike. The miners' representatives have not yet announced their position as yet, Gov. Hatfield's recommendations provide for a nine-hour day, a semi-monthly pay day, and check weighmen, where the majority of the miners so desire, and the matter of discipline is referred to him as a board of reference. The miners, by the Governor's proposal, are to be allowed to purchase supplies wherever they please. Much surprise was expressed that the Paint Creek miners have accepted promptly the suggestion of the Governor. The strike of the miners has cost the State over $10,000,000, and the loss to operators has not be accurately estimated, but is known to be extremely heavy.

BREWERY WORKERS.

Rochester, N. Y., April 26.—The various crafts affiliated with the Brewery Workers' International Union, after a conference held in Buffalo, have decided to extending over two weeks, have secured an increase in wages and better working conditions. The terms of the agreement the following wage increases have been granted: For all inside men, $1 per week; peddlers, $1.50 per week; engineers, $1.50 to $2 per week; beer bottlers, $1 per week; drivers, $2 per week. It is estimated that the total increase in wages granted will aggregate about $60,000 per year and affects 800 employes.

INVOKE ANTI-GAG ACT.

Washington, April 26.—Acting under the anti-gag law passed during the Sixty-second Congress, the officers of the Executive Council of the National Association of Post-office Clerks, has filed charges against the postmaster at Oakland, Cal. This is the first instance where the anti-gag law has been invoked as a result of action taken by the government official. The charges deal directly with a case of a clerk in the Oakland postoffice who was discharged for promoting the local organization there.

SWITCHMAN GETS VERDICT.

Duluth, Minn., April 26.—A railroad switchman, H. J. Lyons, former secretary of the Railway Employes' Mutual Trainmen of this city, has been awarded a judgment for $1,000 against the Northern Pacific Railway Company. While switching cars in the yards of the company Lyons, the switchman was run over and legs torn and lacerated by an engine. He brought suit against the railroad company, and the jury rendered medical attendance and loss of time.

ROAD WORKERS' STRIKE WON.

Mamaroneck, N. Y., April 26.—The strike of the laborers employed on State road in West Chester County has been settled. The contractors granted an increase to 22 cents an hour, a working day of nine hours, and union preference is to be given to local labor, with weekly pay and the padrone system will also be abolished.

REINTRODUCES WOMEN'S BILL.

Washington, April 26.—Senator La Follette has introduced a bill regulating the hours of labor for girls and women in the District of Columbia. It is the same bill that passed the Senate at the last session of Congress, and which would undoubtedly have passed the House had not the appropriation bills of business during the last hours of the session.

PASS EXEMPTION BILL.

Washington, April 26.—On April 22 the House of Representatives passed the sundry civil bill. This bill is identical with the one that President Taft vetoed because it contained amendments directing that no part of the appropriation designed for the legislative, executive and judicial departments should be used in prosecuting labor unions and farmers' unions under the Sherman anti-trust law. A representative of Gillett of Massachusetts endeavored to have the bill recommitted, with instructions to report it back with the exemption amendments stricken out. Representative Buchanan, of the labor group, requested an aye and nay vote but an insufficient number responded to secure it, but on a division the motion of Representative Gillett was defeated by a vote of 193 to 47, thus leaving the exemption amendments in the bill, which was then passed. It now goes to the Senate. The latter body passed this bill at the last session of Congress, and the exemption amendments were accepted unanimously, so that it is fair to assume that the bill will again meet the approval of the Senate.

FIGHTING FULL CREW BILL.

St. Paul, April 26.—The railroad corporations of Minnesota are resorting to every tactic known to prevent the passage of the full crew bill by the State Legislature. The members of the Legislature are disposed to pass the bill and compel railroads to run longer long trains. The railroads, of course, object to this law upon the theory that it would increase the cost of labor to the railroads. The management of these transportation lines are using business men and commercial organizations to use their influence against the passage of the bill, and the firemen of railway yards are endeavoring to secure the signatures of yard men in a protest against the enactment of the law. As a matter of fact, employes of the railroad companies have been informed that if they sign the petitions circulated against the passage of this law they will be denied passes over the road. A large number of the petitions have been so printed, but have done so because of coercion.

TEXAS LEGISLATIVE RESULTS

Austin, Texas, April 26.—The Texas Legislature has adopted a joint resolution submitting to the vote of the people the initiative and referendum, and it will be voted upon at the next election. An eight-hour law was passed covering labor on all public work in counties or State. A workmen's compensation law was passed, and while it is but the beginning of legislation, a fine precedent has been established, forming a basis to develop sufficient sentiment to secure action at the next session. The fifty-four-hour week for women was bitterly fought by all interests. The labor organizations of the State were successful in securing the enactment of the measure. A bill was passed to put into operation a constitutional amendment which was adopted at the election in November, in order to buy public utilities and issue bonds against them instead of raising the purchase price by taxation.

DECLARED UNREASONABLE.

Springfield, Ill., April 26.—The Supreme Court of Illinois held, in the case of Frorer vs. Cockrell, that the Hotels Act of July 1, 1911, providing that no person should be employed to operate emery wheels more than eight hours in one day or in any room lying wholly or partly beneath the surface of the ground, was unconstitutional, on the ground that the classification was unreasonable because as the purpose of the act was to protect workmen from occupational diseases, it was obvious that a basement room might be better lighted and ventilated and might thus be a more healthful place to work in than a small, poorly ventilated room above the surface.

SAVANNAH'S NEW UNIONS.

Savannah, Ga., April 26.—As the result of the activity of the unions in this city the Cooks and Waiters' Union has been organized and chartered by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters. A number of local unions have also been organized of the white men employed as ship carpenters and caulkers and likewise been chartered by the brotherhood. By the addition of these unions renewed interest has been created in the movement, the benefits of which will undoubtedly make for quite an increase in the membership of the established unions.

STILL GOING TO JAIL.

Erie, April 26.—Four more iron molders, who were fined $50 and costs for alleged violation of the anti-injunction law, have taken a jail sentence for sixty days and are now incarcerated. The very fact that these men refused to pay iron molders go to jail, there now being about twenty under sentence, is having the effect to weaken the fund for promoting the local organization there.

SWITCHMEN GETS VERDICT.

Duluth, Minn., April 26.—A railroad switchman, H. J. Lyons, former secretary of the Railway Employes' Mutual Trainmen of this city, has been awarded a judgment for $1,000 against the Northern Pacific Railway Company. While switching cars in the yards of the company Lyons, the switchman was run over and legs torn and lacerated by an engine. He brought suit against the railroad company, and the jury rendered medical attendance and loss of time.

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FOR GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

Washington, April 26.—In a bill introduced by Representative Reilly of Connecticut, consolidating the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Postoffice Department is proposed, with a view to placing the postoffice department complete control of all transportation facilities in the United States. The purpose of the bill, as set forth in the law, is to lease the railroads and guarantee the payment of regular dividends to the owners.

VOTES FOR CITY OWNERSHIP.

Washington, April 26.—According to the press reports, the fight of the city of Detroit for municipal ownership of its street railway system has been won. It is stated that approximately 80 per cent of the votes cast were in favor of the wave of the city taking over the corporation.

SERVED THEM RIGHT.

St. Louis, Mo., April 26.—Eleven members of the St. Louis Board of Education have been fined $100 each in the Circuit Court, for failure to equip three school buildings with fire escapes. The members were released on bonds pending appeal.